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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
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11 DECHERI HAFFER, ) Case No.: 1:20-cv-01426-NONE-JLT  
12 Plaintiff, )  
13 v. ) ORDER DIRECTING PLAINTIFF TO PAY THE  
14 UNKNOWN, ) FILING FEE OR FILE A MOTION TO PROCEED  
15 Defendant. ) IN FORMA PAUPERIS  
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17 Plaintiff initiated this action by filing a complaint on September 24, 2020. As a general rule, all  
18 parties instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding in a United States District Court must pay a filing  
19 fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). However, the Court may authorize the commencement of an action without  
20 the filing fee “by a person who submits an affidavit that includes a statement of all assets such [person]  
21 possesses that the person is unable to pay such fees or give security therefor.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1).  
22 Therefore, an action may proceed despite a failure to prepay the filing fee only if leave to proceed *in*  
23 *forma pauperis* is granted by the Court. See Rodriguez v. Cook, 169 F.3d 1176, 1177 (9th Cir. 1999).

24 Plaintiff failed to pay the requisite filing fee or to file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*,  
25 and the matter cannot proceed before the Court at this time. Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS**:

- 26 1. Plaintiff **SHALL** pay the filing fee within 21 days of service of this order, or  
27 2. In the alternative, Plaintiff **SHALL** file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* within  
28 21 days of service.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

**/s/ Jennifer L. Thurston**  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE